

WEST VIRGINIA CODE: §33-12B-11

§33-12B-11. Denial, revocation, suspension, probation, or refusal to renew license; penalties; violations.

(a) The commissioner may examine and investigate the business affairs and conduct of persons applying for or holding an adjuster license to determine whether such person is trustworthy and competent or has been or is engaged in any violation of the insurance laws or rules of this state or in any unfair or deceptive acts or practices in any state.

(b) If the commissioner denies an initial or renewal application for a license, he or she shall notify the applicant or licensee in writing of the reason for such action. The applicant or licensee may, within 10 days of receipt of such notice, make written demand for a hearing before the commissioner to determine the reasonableness of the action, and such hearing shall be held in accordance with the provisions of §33-2-13 of this code.

(c) Whenever, after notice and hearing, the commissioner is satisfied that any adjuster has violated any provision of this chapter or of rules promulgated or proposed hereunder, or is incompetent or untrustworthy, he or she shall place the adjuster on probation or refuse to issue, revoke, suspend, or, if renewal of license is pending, refuse to renew the license of such adjuster. In addition to placing a licensee on probation or revoking, suspending, or refusing to renew or issue his or her license, the commissioner may in his or her discretion order such licensee to pay to the State of West Virginia an administrative penalty in a sum not to exceed \$1,000 for each violation. Upon the failure of a licensee to pay within 30 days a civil penalty imposed by the commissioner, his or her license shall be revoked or suspended by the commissioner.

(d) Each of the following shall constitute a violation under this article:

- (1) Providing incorrect, misleading, incomplete, or materially untrue information in the license application;
- (2) Violating any insurance statute, rule, subpoena, or order of the commissioner or of another state's insurance commissioner;
- (3) Obtaining or attempting to obtain a license through misrepresentation or fraud;
- (4) Improperly withholding, misappropriating, or converting any monies or properties received in the course of doing insurance business;
- (5) Intentionally misrepresenting the terms of an actual or proposed insurance contract or application for insurance;
- (6) Having been convicted of or pleaded nolo contendere to any felony;

(7) Having been convicted of or pleaded nolo contendere to a misdemeanor in connection with his or her activities relating to the business of insurance;

(8) Having admitted or been found to have committed any insurance unfair trade practice or fraud;

(9) Having an insurance license or its equivalent suspended, revoked, or refused in any other state, province, district, or territory;

(10) Forging any document or signature relating to an insurance transaction or fraudulently procuring a forged signature to any document related to an insurance transaction;

(11) Cheating, including improperly using notes or any other reference material, in the course of taking an examination for an insurance license;

(12) Using fraudulent, coercive, or dishonest practices, or demonstrating incompetence, untrustworthiness, or financial irresponsibility, in the conduct of insurance business in this state or elsewhere;

(13) Failing to comply with an administrative or court order imposing a child support obligation; or

(14) Failing to pay state income tax or comply with any administrative or court order directing payment of state income tax which remains unpaid.

(e) Orders issued pursuant to this section are subject to the judicial review provisions of §33-2-14 of this code.